

Interim Chair's Report to Streatley Allotments Society AGM 1st June 2020

Detailed reports covering all aspects of the committee's activities have been circulated to members prior to this meeting. You will see that SAS has been engaging within the villages, and continues to manage its affairs successfully.

The Streatley Allotment Society committee is a strong group of committed individuals who undertake their relevant roles with good humour, diligence and flexibility. Between us we cover membership (Harry), site management (Peter), finances (Imogen), paperwork (Linda), very ably supported by Joan and Diana. Tasks such as liaising with other organisations, representing SAS, events and fundraising, have been taken on by different committee members, with the support of the whole group. This has meant that we have managed unexpectedly well without a permanent Chair (I have been chairing the committee meetings).

We began the year giving our great appreciation to outgoing Chair, John Ashton, who had done a sterling job, and for longer than he had planned! We also expressed our gratitude to previous Treasurer, George Lovering for many years of service. In the coming year we will be saying goodbye to Peter Barefield who has had the wisdom to successfully balance the need to for effective site management with the recognition that we are, after all, a community pleasure not a commercial enterprise. Peter has kindly agreed to stay in post until Harry Beresford is able to hand over the responsibilities of Membership Secretary to Diana Wheatley, after which he will be the ideal committee member to step into Peter's shoes. I am grateful to Diana for taking on this role, and also greatly appreciate Joan Holt's offer to take over the role of Social Secretary from me. Joan has been very active with the outward facing SAS activities over the year.

And since no one has put themselves forward as Chair over the year, I am willing to take on the role for the meantime, but only because I know I can completely rely on the committee to ensure that, between us, we maintain the SAS community and ensure the organisation meets its various obligations; in particular Imogen and Linda's skills, experience and careful attention mean we can be confident in our finances and administration. We will still be seeking someone who is both comfortable with the various requirements of the chairing role AND knows about successful allotmenteeing to join the committee with a view to moving to the Chair's role in due course.

And, of course, we would also welcome anyone else who would be interested in joining the committee, who may, in time, take on one of the other roles.

We have been very lucky to be able to continue working our plots, despite Coronavirus lockdown; we appreciate everyone for taking care re avoiding contagion; it looks like the challenge will continue. And, finally, thank you again to the committee, and also to all those other allotment holders who play their part in ensuring the success of SAS; whether by donating plants for sale, supporting each other when needed, looking after the common areas, turning up to working parties, or simply being a friendly face down at the plot!

Karen Morton, Acting Chair.